

David Berkowitz

“SON of SAM”

Reporting Officer:

Badge Number: 820190727

February 17, 2012 13:41 pm

Agency Code: 11759

Division: Winter 2012

# David Berkowitz



Sex - MALE   Race - WHITE   Hair - GREY   Eyes - BLUE   DOB - 06/01/1933  
SCAR LEFT NECK

NYSID # - 41763540

ID CARD # - 00000472

<http://serialkillersrus.tripod.com/id6.html>

### Son of Sam: Summary of Criminal Actions:

David Berkowitz, better known as the Son of Sam and the .44 killer, is described as a disorganized serial killer that displayed early on signs of paranoia and personality disorder. The personality traits of Berkowitz are covered in later sections. This section will focus on an overview of the suspect and the crimes giving a strong understanding of the case.

The suspect, born June 1, 1953 Richard David Falco and renamed David Richard Berkowitz after adoption had listed the address 25 (or 35 depending on conflicting reports) Pine Street, Yonkers, NY at time of arrest. The arrest report describes Berkowitz as a 24-year-old white male standing at the average height of 5' 8" with a husky, muscular build weighing 200-215 lbs. He has a MOD style haircut with sideburns, well-groomed and clean-shaven, tan complexion, and in generally good order.

Not much is known about Berkowitz with regards to his day to day routines, however it is known that he was not married or very successful with the socially, especially with the opposite sex. In fact "his apartment was filthy, littered with liquor bottles and the walls scratched with graffiti. To those who knew him, [Berkowitz], lived a rather uneventful life" (Hikley p.312). "He was still a virgin when he joined the army and his only sexual experience (according to later interviews with Berkowitz) during his three-year service was with a prostitute (Web interview pt.3 2009).

It is largely believed "that this incident gave him a venereal disease [adding to his inability to connect to anyone socially]. Gradually his anger and frustration with women became acute and it was then that he developed a taste for arson [as a means of social revenge] setting hundreds of fires in the city" (Retrieved from <http://www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk/crime-files/david-berkowitz-son-of-sam/biography> Feb 20, 2012). Berkowitz preferred to hunt in what in areas known as a comfort zone only venturing from Queens and the Bronx on one occasion. Berkowitz claims his first assault was at knifepoint on Christmas Eve 1975 and although it was not successful, it did set off the side of him that "usually goes unmentioned and unknown. "This guy was... an arsonist who had a log of starting over 1400 fires between 1974 and 1975. In his arson logbook found by police, he listed dates, box numbers, borough locations, extent of fire

and other details. He even noted the type of box (ERS) and FDNY signal codes" (Retrieved from <http://nycfire.net> Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 WEB).

It is generally accepted that once the fire starting high wore off, Berkowitz moved on to murder. For the most part, he targeted young women, generally with dark short or shoulder length hair, in blitz –style surprise attacks varying only slightly between attacks using the same large .44 Charter Arms Bulldog revolver. Some victims died, others wounded, but all of the attacks were surprise attacks. In later interviews after his arrest, Berkowitz does his best to confuse investigators and reduce his involvement by telling them that he was part of a larger cult type group of murders operating in the area or that his neighbors demon–possessed dog was telling him to commit murder (Web interview pt. 4, 2009). A claim he later gave up on admitting his attempt at an insanity defense. Up until his final attack Berkowitz did not seem to change his method of attack or the type of setting in which he chose to attack. He preferred women with dark hair, late at night, and out in the open either in a car or on the street. Since the nature of his attacks were a surprise to his victims and seemingly random no evidence, save a few partial prints on the cryptic letters sent to police and journalist, was ever recovered making it difficult for police to initially link the murders and just as difficult to identify the killer. Police chased the leanest leads and descriptions for months while the media gave Berkowitz (now known as the Son of Sam) almost celebrity status (which he enjoyed immensely). The following excerpt is taken from Modus Operandi.com a website detailing the lucky break the police received helping them identify David Berkowitz as the Son of Sam:

"On that night 49-year-old Cacilia Davis (before the murder happened) was dropped off by a friend in his car just not far from the park just after 2.00 a.m. As the car stopped off and because it was in a one way street, Mrs. Davis was looking out for other cars; as she did so, she saw a yellow Ford Galaxy parked next to a fire hydrant (which is an offence). As she watched, she saw a man approach the car and remove a parking ticket from the windscreen. As her friend was reversing out his car, the Ford Galaxy braked behind him and blared the car horn. She noticed that the driver was young and had dark hair. Her friend drove on with the Ford Galaxy behind and then the Ford Galaxy

overtook him and sped on. A few minutes later Mrs. Davis took her dog for a walk in the nearby park. As she did so she saw three parked cars which was Tommy Zaino's car, Bobby Violante's car, and a VW van. As she was returning home she noticed a dark haired man in a blue denim jacket, he was walking as if he was carrying something up his sleeve; the man glared at her, making her nervous so she returned home quickly. The man she saw looked like the man who had been driving the Ford Galaxy earlier. It took her two days to come forward to the police to tell her story as she thought that Son of Sam might try to eliminate a witness. The police interviewed her and got her complete story. The police also tried to look for the parking ticket that the Ford Galaxy had been given on the night of the shootings as described in Mrs. Cacilia's story. It took them ten days exactly after the last attack to find the ticket. After the ticket was found it proved to belong to a David Berkowitz, registered as 561-XLB, who lived at 25 Pine Street, Yonkers. On Wednesday, 10 August 1977, two detectives - John Longo and Ed Zigo, went to Berkowitz's address to check on him. Outside was Berkowitz's Galaxy, in the back seat was a duffel bag with a rifle butt pointing out the end. The police - confident that they had their man - waited for Berkowitz to be out of his apartment before they would arrest him. Six hours later Berkowitz left his apartment and got in his Galaxy, just as he did, police rushed on the car and arrested him". (Retrieved from <http://www.fortunecity.com> Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 WEB).

Son of Sam Victims

| Name | Location of incident | Age | Relation to suspect | Sex | Race |
|------|----------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|------|
|------|----------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|------|

|                       |                  |         |      |   |         |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------|------|---|---------|
| Michelle Forman       | Unknown          | Unknown | None | F | White   |
| Not Identified        | Unknown          | Unknown | None | F | Unknown |
| Donna Lauria          | The Bronx (NY)   | 18      | None | F | White   |
| Carl Denaro           | Queens           | 19-20   | None | M | White   |
| RoseMary Kennan       | Queens           | 18      | None | F | White   |
| Donna Demasi          | Queens           | 16      | None | F | White   |
| Joanne Lomino         | Queens           | 18      | None | F | White   |
| Christina Freund      | Queens           | 26      | None | F | White   |
| John Diel             | Queens           | 30      | None | M | White   |
| Virginia Voskerichian | Queens           | 19      | None | F | White   |
| Jody Valenti          | the Bronx (NY)   | 19      | None | F | White   |
| Alexander Esau        | the Bronx (NY)   | 20      | None | M | White   |
| Valentina Suriani     | the Bronx (NY)   | 18      | None | F | White   |
| Salvatore Lupo        | Queens (Bayside) | 20      | None | M | White   |
| Jody Placido          | Queens (Bayside) | 17      | None | F | White   |
| Robert Violante       | Brooklyn         | 20      | None | M | White   |
| Stacey Moskowitz      | Brooklyn         | 20      | None | F | White   |

Witness in the Son of Sam shooting yield nothing solid in any case. Most reports include many vague and general descriptions.

| Name<br>Witness Type | Residence | Age | Relation to Suspect | Sex | Race |
|----------------------|-----------|-----|---------------------|-----|------|
|----------------------|-----------|-----|---------------------|-----|------|

|   |           |       |  |   |   |                  |
|---|-----------|-------|--|---|---|------------------|
| Jody Valentina                              | Bronx     | 19    | Victim: Short dark hair in MOD style 5'9" mid 30's   | F | W | Victim           |
| Unknown Neighbor in Demasi/Lomino shootings | Queens    | ?     | None: Gave description of man running from scene with blonde hair and gun in (L) hand.   | F | ? | Lay Witness. Saw |
| Demasi/Lomino                               | Queens    | 16/18 | Victims straight dirty blonde hair   | F | W | Victims          |
| Unknown Neighbor in Esau/Suriani shootings  | The Bronx | ?     | None: Nearly collided with possible suspect after hearing the shooting. Described as husky boy of 16-18. Description supported by other neighbors of the area. | M | ? | Lay Witness      |
| Tommy Zaino,                                | Brooklyn  | 19    | None: Saw suspect by light of streetlight as Moskowitz shooting occurred. Stated that it looked like the suspect was wearing a wig                             | M | W | Witness          |
| Unknown                                     | Brooklyn  | ?     | None: Saw suspect by light of streetlight just after Moskowitz shooting occurred. Stated that it looked like the suspect was wearing a wig                     | F | ? | Witness          |

Psychological Profile

Patient: David Berkowitz

DOB: June 1, 1953.

Evaluator: [redacted]

### History:

When David Berkowitz was born, he was almost immediately given up for adoption. Born Richard David Falco, Berkowitz's childhood was one of regular deviance. Even though Berkowitz displayed better than average intellect he dropped out of school and fell into a life of petty theft and arson. He played baseball often and had the reputation of bullying in his neighborhood. Berkowitz' already strained relationship with his adoptive father Nathan fractured even further when he remarried after his mother died of breast cancer when he was 14 and in 1971, just 4 years after her death Berkowitz joined the U.S. Army until 1974. David adopted the Christian faith in the army. His father was upset that David had not lived up to his potential in school, turned his back on his new wife, chose a life of deviance, and had now denounced Judaism. Berkowitz eventually tracked down his birth mother, but after learning the story behind his adoption, they did not keep in touch. Berkowitz worked at several jobs, employed by the U.S. Postal Service at the time of his arrest.

### Patient's Personality:

After his father remarried, David left home to live in the Bronx. Being relatively anti-social, he inevitably became lonely eventually deciding to search for his birth parents. He discovered his real name was Richard Falco through some searching in the Bureau of Records. He looked through the phone directory and contacted his real mother. They had an emotional reunion and soon David became a frequent guest in his mother's home. In early 1976, he drifted apart from his sister and mother by visiting them less often. In February, he moved to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cassara in New Rochelle, New York. Two months later, he left the Cassaras' home unexpectedly not even bothering to collect his \$200 dollar deposit. Before the documented shootings, David Berkowitz made two knife attacks on women, all of which survived as well as being a serial arsonist. It has been suggested that when his first attempt at social power and control (arson) failed to satisfy his need for attention he moved on to assault. As mentioned previously, in December of 1975 (at the end of his arson spree) he attacked two women with a knife in an

unsuccessful attempt at murder. Unsatisfied with his ineffective methods he changed them when he obtained his .44 caliber Bulldog. He moved into Pine Street in Yonkers just three months before the first murder.

Categorization of patient:

- a) Berkowitz is Disorganized serial killer (killed several over time with a cooling off period between and displaying a generally set pattern) clearly suffering from a Paranoid Schizophrenic disorder (delusional thinking not based in reality and effecting the way someone acts accompanied by hallucinations and speech abnormalities or creation of sensory input that is not there such as rhyming or nonsense). In Berkowitz's Paranoid schizophrenia case he has the positive functioning (however abnormal) symptoms of delusions of grandeur with such statements as; "I am not a wemon [sic] hater but I am a monster. "I am the "Son of Sam I feel like an outsider, I am on a different wavelength than everybody else" suggesting that he feels alone and above all others in his charge which is. Berkowitz also has the delusions of persecution as he displays hallucinations. During questioning, Berkowitz gave a story that seemed to demand an insanity defense: the "Sam" referred to in the first letter was one Sam Carr, a former neighbor of David. Berkowitz claimed that the dog, Harvey, possessed by an ancient demon, and that it commanded Berkowitz to kill. Berkowitz said he once tried to eliminate the dog, only to see his aim spoiled due to supernatural force.

In addition to the hallucinations, Berkowitz also displays inappropriate laughter and generally disorganized speech, emotions, and behaviors. During his sentencing, Berkowitz chanted repeatedly, "Stacy was a whore" at a low however audible volume. The assumption is that he was referring to Stacy Moskowitz, who died in the final shooting (<http://www.fortunecity.com>).

Berkowitz's behaviors due to his disconnection with reality are clearly a violation of cultural norms as if at any time he is witnessed displaying any of these symptoms in a public setting he would be noticed and quickly defined and responded to as socially

|  |  |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disorganized  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Murder<br><input type="checkbox"/> Spree Killer<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Serial Killer<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rampager<br><input type="checkbox"/> Crime of Passion | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Abuse<br><input type="checkbox"/> Battered Spouse Syndrome<br><input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pedophilia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Illness (e.g. Depression, Schizophrenia, Bipolar, Psychosis, others?)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Personality Disorder (e.g. Borderline, APD, others?)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Organic disorder (e.g. tumor, head trauma, others?) |   |
| <u>Social Influence</u><br><input type="checkbox"/> Conformity<br><input type="checkbox"/> Roles<br><input type="checkbox"/> Obedience<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stress | <u>Hate Crime:</u><br><input type="checkbox"/> Thrill<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mission<br><input type="checkbox"/> Retaliatory<br><input type="checkbox"/> Defensive  | <u>Rapist</u><br><input type="checkbox"/> Anger<br><input type="checkbox"/> Power<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sadist  | <u>Stalker</u><br><input type="checkbox"/> Domestic<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psychopathic<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psychotic<br><input type="checkbox"/> Simple Obsessional<br><input type="checkbox"/> Erotomania  | <u>Serial Murder</u><br><input type="checkbox"/> Visionary<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hedonistic<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Power<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sadistic |

deviant (failure to conform to minimum social standards or norms). Berkowitz may be in his own world of delusion, (with tendencies toward a possible multiple personality disorder) but it is clear that his feelings of persecution are creating a measure of personal stress so great that he is willing and capable of harming others and himself. In addition to well as making him a danger (obviously) and causing a sever disconnection with any sort of normal personal life. In fact his disorder is so dangerous to others and maladaptive (because he is not able to connect with reality, thereby completely disrupting any normal sense of a personal life) in he own life that she will most likely need to continue to be separated from normal society for a long period of further evaluation and psychiatric help.

b) David Berkowitz was captured after a parking ticket he received in the area of the final killing was traced back to him and eventually confessed to all the murders. During his arrest interview, he told investigators that the demon voices travelled with him as he was out hunting for new victims. The murder investigation was the largest single operation by the New York Police Department, involving over 250 detectives, dealing with 200+ calls a day on the public hot line. Police questioned over 2,500 suspects and an attempt made to check out each of the .44 caliber Bulldog revolvers manufactured

up to that time. Berkowitz was sentenced to 365 years in prison in the Attica Correctional Facility. Through the entire murder trial, David Berkowitz showed many signs of paranoid schizophrenia, which is said to attribute to the murders.

#### Final Thoughts:

I believe David Berkowitz was/is a Power-oriented serial killer who knowingly demanded power over people he killed although I do think that there was a subconscious sexual satisfaction aspect to his killings (Woodell Notes 3/8/12). He received 365 years under the charge of first-degree murder. I agree with this sentencing coming to this conclusion based on the information available to the public. It is fair to note that Berkowitz was relatively unknown before he became famous for his killing spree so a majority of the information we know comes from interviews with him after his arrest. It is known that Berkowitz had a rocky relationship with his father that only fractured further when his mother died. He was somewhat of a bully early on, had no real ability to interact with the opposite sex which is probably why he chose the hooker in the army, and did not have enough self-confidence to continue his schooling opting instead for a life of petty theft and arson. This leads me to believe that he craved attention, attention he did not get from his mother since she died, his father especially after he remarried or society in general (possible reason for being a bully). During his time in the army he changed his religious identity from Judaism to Christianity (possible in a last ditch attempt to gain his father's attention) which drove the final wedge between him and his dad. His need for attention (positive or negative) coupled with an impulse control disorder (evident in his need to watch stuff burn) and inability to socially interact probably manifested itself into an anti-social personality disorder or even possibly a measure of split personality. It would stand to reason that if there were two or more perceived mental influences directing his actions it might suggest remorse on some level and explain the relative cooling periods between the kills. I suspect (because of the confidence, attitude, and taunting nature of his letters) that Berkowitz was or is, in some form, aroused by the attention Son of Sam received from the public and media. Finally, in some way the world was taking notice of him. Taking all of this evidence into consideration,

I believe that may still be socially unstable enough for the need to deny any parole (which he has asked to be revoked anyway lending credibility to the need for attention theory). When he was arrested his only response to the arresting officer was, "what took you so long?" I believe that David Berkowitz was anti-social all through his life. I think that he did not know how to interact with people and that deviance was an easy way around this shortcoming. It gained him the attention (albeit negative) he craved, but only lasted so long. Over the years, he increased the methods he used to gain attention finally creating the pseudo name Son of Sam to buffer him from capture. I do however believe that he had a measure of jealousy for his alter ego because of his attention craving and eventually wanted to the credit for himself leading to the deviation of his killing method and the change in location of the final shooting, and ultimately his capture.

Son of Sam letter to the Daily News: [sic]

Hello from the gutters of NYC, which are filled with dog manure, vomit, stale wine, urine, and blood.

Hello from the sewers of NYC which swallow up these delicacies when they are washed away by the sweeper trucks.

Hello from the cracks in the sidewalks of NYC and from the ants that dwell in these cracks and feed in the dried blood that has settled into the cracks.

Mr. Breslin, sir, don't think because you haven't heard from me for a while that I went to sleep. No, rather, I am still here. Like a spirit roaming the night. Thirsty, hungry, seldom stopping to rest; anxious to please Sam.

I love my work. Now the void has been filled. He won't let me stop killing until he gets his fill of blood. Tell me, Jim, what will you have for me July 29?

Not knowing what the future holds, I shall say farewell and I will see you at the next job. Or should I say you will see my handiwork at my next job?

P.S. Please inform all the detectives working on the case that I wish them luck. Keep them digging, drive on. Think positive. Here are some clues to help you along. The Duke of Death, The Wicked King Wicker. The 22 Disciples of Hell. John Wheaties, rapist and suffocater of young girls.

In their blood and from the gutter -- 'Sam's Creation'. 44 Caliber

The Son of Sam.

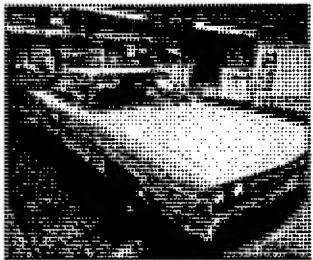
Son of Sam Letter to the media

Clip from Arson Record kept by Berkowitz

| DATE    | BOX       | Location                       | (S/S) | WOR |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|-----|
| 4/2/77  | 6699      | 82 Ave. + 217. ST.             | Q     | 18- |
| 4/2/77  | 6452      | 61 Ave. + 262 ST.              | Q     | 9   |
| 4/2/77  |           | Marathon Pkwy + Thebes Ave     | Q     | 19- |
| 4/16/77 | 4373 (TA) | Adee + Edson                   | BX    | 1+2 |
| 5/24/77 | 4361 (TA) | E. Gun Hill Rd. + MACE         | BX    | 19- |
| 5/26/77 | 3595      | Webster bet. Gun Hill + E. 233 | BX    | 18- |
| 5/26/77 | 2245 (TA) | RIVER + E. 151 ST.             | BX    | 19- |
| 6/2/77  | 4373 (TA) | Adee + Edson                   | BX    | 1+2 |
| 6/17/77 | 4027 (TA) | Ferry Point Park               | BX    | 19- |
| 6/17/77 | 7139      | 40 <sup>th</sup> Ave. + 11 ST. | Q     | 9   |
| 7/3/77  | 2830      | Bay Shore Pkwy + Bay 13 St.    | K     | 18  |
| 7/17/77 | 2040      | 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave + 78 ST   | K     | 18  |

I SAY GOODBYE AND  
GOODNIGHT.  
POLICE! LET ME  
TAUNT YOU WITH THESE  
WORDS;  
I'LL BE BACK!  
I'LL BE BACK!  
TO BE INTERPRETED  
AS - BANG BANG BANG  
BANK, BANK - UGH!!  
- YOURS IN  
MURDER  
MR. MONSTER.

Berkowitz' Ford Galaxy



Berkowitz parks in front of a fire hydrant and receives a parking ticket.

Ford Galaxy, license plate 561 XLB.



Charter Arms .44 Bulldog Revolver



Son of Sam Letter to Cpt. Joe Borelli, NYPD

*Dear Sir:*

*I am deeply hurt by the newspaper calling me a woman hater. I am not. But I am a monster.*

*I am a little brat. I am the 'Son of Sam.'*

*Sam loves to drink blood. 'Go out and kill,' commands father Sam.*

*'Behind our house some rest. Mostly young --  
raped and slaughtered -- their blood drained --  
just bones now.*

*Papa Sam keeps me locked in the attic too.*

*I can't get out. When I look out the attic window and  
watch the world go by.*

*I feel like an outsider. I am on a different  
wavelength than everybody else -- programmed  
to kill.*

*However, to stop me you must kill me.*

*I am the 'Monster' -- 'Beelzebub' -- the chubby  
behemoth. I love to hunt. Prowling the streets looking  
for fair game.*

*It must be the water they drink. I live for the hunt --  
my life. Blood for papa.*

*Sir, I don't want to kill anymore. No sir, no more but I must, 'honor  
thy father.'*

*I want to make love to the world. I  
love people. I don't belong on earth. Return  
me to yahoos.*

*I want to wish all of you a happy Easter.  
May God bless you in this life and in the next.  
And for now I say good-bye and goodnight.*

*Police, let me haunt you with these words:  
I'll be back! I'll be back! To be interpreted as --  
bang, bang, bang, bang.*

*Yours in murder,  
Mr. Monster.*

### Son of Sam Victim Photos

Donna Lauria



Carl Denaro



Donna Demasi



Joanne Lomino



Stacey Moskowitz



Christina Freund



Jodi Valenti



Virginia Voskerichian



Alexander Esau



Valentina Suriani

(All images retrieved from [http://www.homicidesquad.com/Son\\_Of\\_Sam.htm](http://www.homicidesquad.com/Son_Of_Sam.htm). Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 2012, WEB)

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